

Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update



FEBRUARY 2022



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Welcome to the Corteva Agriscience Grassland and Maize Agronomy Update.

These regular technical notes are a seasonal commentary to help those interested in improving grassland and forage productivity on dairy, beef, sheep and equestrian enterprises. You can claim two CPD points for subscribing to this email update.

Download the Farm More Forage App.



Where you are currently using the Grassland App - please now switch to the Farm More Forage App.

This app carries information on all our solutions for the livestock farmer: maize seed, silage inoculants, grass and maize herbicides and nitrogen stabilizers.

It also is needed for the Forefront® T Stewardship Record Management Tool which no longer works in the Grassland App. All current client records have been transferred to the new app and can be accessed if you register using the same email address that you registered with on the Grassland App.

It is available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#)

If you need any help on switching over contact: rosamund.howling@corteva.com



Early focus on common chickweed.

Common chickweed starts to emerge in early spring and its prostrate growth habit allows it to rapidly take over any gaps in grassland.

At this time of year, chickweed will be present in established grassland, often in damaged swards e.g. autumn poached or where slurry injectors open up the sward allowing chickweed to colonise. Chickweed is also the most common weed of new sown leys. It will aggressively compete with grass seedlings for space, light, water and most importantly nutrients, and so needs to be controlled.

An individual chickweed plant can produce up to 1300 seeds and it only takes five to six weeks from germination to seed dispersal. [cont/](#)

Plants are capable of four to five generations in a year and seed buried in soil can remain viable for up to 25 years, so it's not a weed to ignore.

Use Envy®, which works better at lower temperatures than other solutions, and can be sprayed from now until the end of November.

Florasulam, one of the two active ingredients in Envy allows it to work at cooler temperatures. This means, if ground conditions allow, spray before the chickweed flowers and before it significantly impacts grass growth.

Apply Envy on chickweed at 1.0L/ha in new sown leys and in established grassland or 1.5L/ha if the weed spectrum requires it. Envy can also be used in established grassland at the higher rate of 2.0L/ha to control important perennial weeds. Removing chickweed in young leys allows productive grasses to tiller out and spread across the bare ground that remains and to avoid the grasses being 'choked' by the chickweed.

Envy has excellent grass safety, is rainfast in two hours and has a stock exclusion period of just seven days. Envy is also an excellent herbicide for buttercups and dandelions, but it will kill clover.

Envy label weeds.

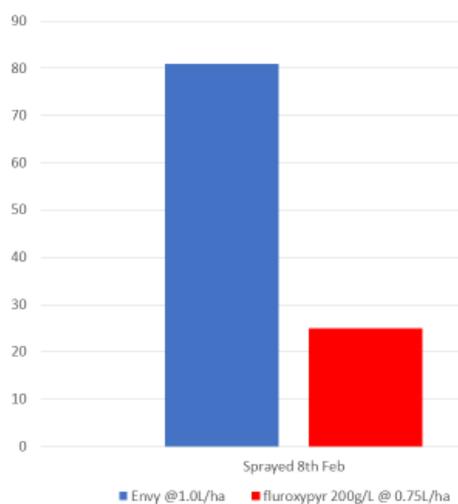
Envy is a selective herbicide which can be used in several situations, including new sown leys, established grass, grass for seed and horse paddocks. Containing the dual actives florasulam and fluroxypyr, Envy will control a number of key weeds. In new sown leys, Envy has a label recommendation for docks, common chickweed, common mouse-ear, mayweeds, charlock, shepherds' purse, knotgrass, forget-me-not, poppy, cleavers and volunteer oilseed rape. When used at the L/ha rate in established grassland, Envy has label recommendations for common mouse-ear, daisy, dandelion and buttercup. As well as on-label weeds, we also have anecdotal information on a number of other weeds, which can be found in the weed tables in Corteva's Grassland and Maize Agronomy Guide and in the Farm More Forage App. Please note that the user assumes full responsibility for use on these 'anecdotal' weeds.

Envy[®]
HERBICIDE



Early season control of common chickweed with Envy

% Control of common chickweed soil temp 5.1°C at 10cm



Source: Corteva Agriscience Trial 2021

Early season dock control.

Doxstar[®] PRO

HERBICIDE

Plan dock control now, particularly on fields destined for silage as a mild winter means that docks are well established and growing well. To avoid dying dock biomass being cut and taken to the silage clamp, herbicide applications need to be made a minimum of three weeks before cutting to allow the weed to die back, so estimate when the first silage cut is likely to be taken and work back at least three weeks. Removing docks early in the season gives time for grass to recolonize and ensures nitrogen and soil moisture are utilized by the grass crop and not weeds. Early in the season, docks will show fresh new growth and will also be at a similar growth stage, which makes it easier to treat them all.

Doxstar[®] Pro has been specifically formulated to give lasting control of the docks. However, the product can only work at its best if weeds are healthy and actively growing. Weeds with leaves that are frost damaged, diseased e.g. *ramularia* leaf spot or insect damaged e.g. green dock beetle.

Chickweed and dandelions are also controlled from an application of Doxstar Pro.

Doxstar Pro should be applied at a rate of 2.0L/ha in 200 to 400 litres of water with the higher water volume used if dock numbers are high or the grass sward is particularly dense. If low drift 3* nozzles are used for application, Corteva support a single water volume of 200L/ha. **cont/**

Spraying time versus weed growth pattern and 1st silage cut (example)

Typical weed growth timing

Month	Period	Chickweed	Dandelions	Buttercups	Docks	Thistles	Nettles	Ragwort
March	Early							
	Mid							
	Late	█					█	
April	Early	█	█					
	Mid	█	█	█				
	Late	█	█	█	█			
May	Early	█	█	█	█			
	Mid	█	█	█	█	█		
	Late	█	█	█	█	█	█	
June	Early			█	█	█	█	
	Mid			█	█	█	█	
	Late				█	█	█	
July	Early					█		█
	Mid					█		█
	Late							
August	Early							
	Mid							
	Late		█	█	█		█	
September	Early							█
	Mid							█
	Late	█	█	█	█		█	█
October	Early				█		█	
	Mid							
	Late							

Planned spraying date

Planned cutting date

Planned spraying date should ideally be 28 days prior to planned cutting date to allow dying weed biomass time to rot down to avoid it being cut and put into the silage clamp.

Forefront T Stewardship Record Management Tool.

Agronomists are reminded that all sales of Forefront® T must be recorded in the Forefront T Stewardship Record Management Tool, which is found in the 'Stewardship' section of the Farm More Forage App.

Forefront® T

HERBICIDE

Clopyralid stewardship.

Be aware that labels for ALL authorisations of products containing clopyralid with a label use on grassland will have additional restrictions as of 2023.

There is a growing role for manure to part replace peat in some manufactured composts, and more home-grown vegetable production drawing on local livestock / equestrian businesses for manure.

The use of mulches and not digging in manures is practiced by a growing number of gardeners which can lead to longer break-down times of plant material and any clopyralid residues if present.

As a result of this we are advising that clopyralid containing products (Thistlex®, Pas®·Tor® Agronomy Pack or Leystar®) should not be used on

grass which will be cut for animal feed (i.e. fresh cut grass, silage, hay and haylage), fodder or bedding nor for composting or mulching within one year of treatment, and should not be used on grassland grazed by horses and ponies. This will significantly reduce the likelihood of clopyralid residues in manure from having a consequence where its use may end up on sensitive crops.

Labels for clopyralid containing products used on grassland will be updated to reflect these changes for the season of use in 2023.

More details can be found in a dedicated topic sheet in our Farm More Forage app or scan the QR code to discover more.

Thistlex®

HERBICIDE

Pas®·Tor®

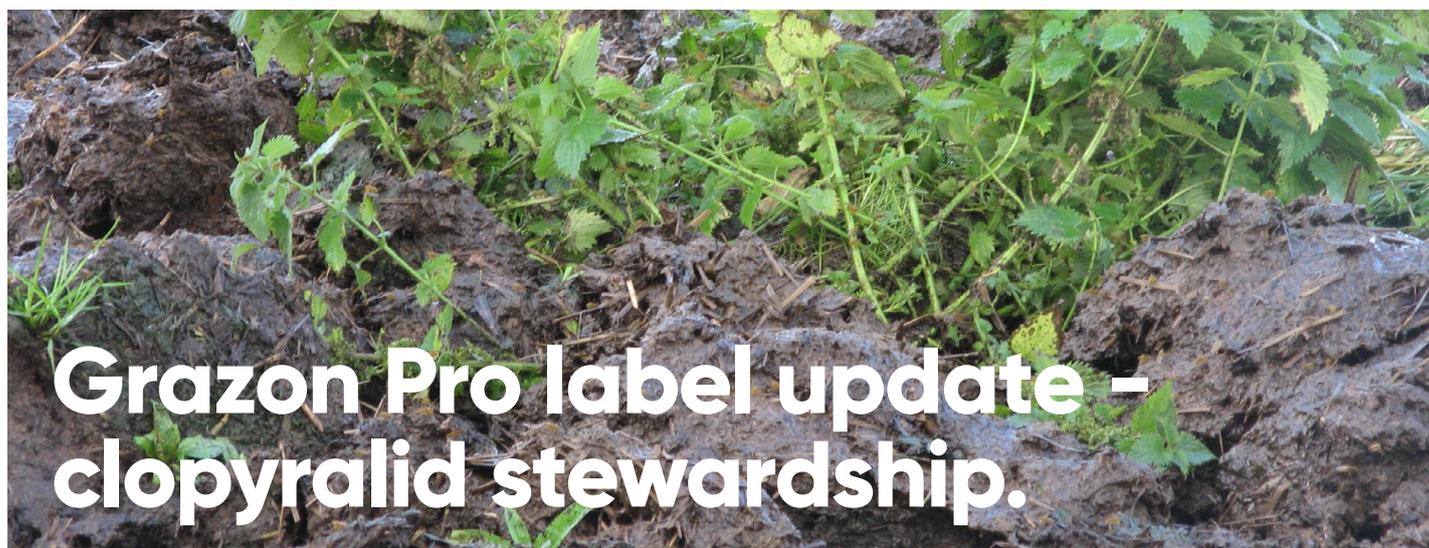
Agronomy Pack

HERBICIDE

Leystar®

HERBICIDE





Grazon Pro label update - clopyralid stewardship.

The Grazon® Pro label will be updated in 2022 to include the following new label statement:

'Grazon Pro must not be applied onto or around manure or other compost heaps'

The new label will have a new MAPP number (19875). This change is being implemented as clopyralid present in Grazon Pro applied directly to manure or other compost heaps will not break down without soil microbial activity.

Grazon® PRO

HERBICIDE

PACTS®

The latest results from the annual Pioneer Accurate Crop Testing System (PACTS®) show a maize dent hybrid, P7034, with higher rumen degradable starch, consistently offers farmers a better performing forage.

P7034 is Pioneer's first dent- type variety bred specifically to meet UK climate conditions and is both cold-tolerant and early-flowering. Being a dent variety, it produces starch that is easier for rumen bacteria to degrade, making energy more available to livestock and helping produce more milk from forage.

Most UK-grown maize is the flint type because traditionally it has been better suited to our cool climate and able to emerge strongly in colder soil conditions. But this has disadvantages. A high proportion of flint maize starch is more likely to bypass the rumen and ends up unused in manure.

Dent-type maize, so called because it has a dent in the top of the kernel, contains more soft, floury starch in kernels less tightly packed and with a greater surface area.

This makes it easier and quicker to break down and digest in the rumen. PACTS trials have rigorously and consistently measured the relative rumen degradable starch in dent varieties. P7034 has been the best performing commercially available dent-type variety for the last four years. The Forage Maize Descriptive List does not currently include rumen degradable starch ratings.

But why does this matter? Research measuring the faecal starch content of lactating cows has shown for every 1% reduction in bypass starch, an extra 0.35 litres of milk per cow can be produced. So, finding a way to use maize starch more efficiently makes good business sense and there is a clear-cut financial benefit of minimising starch loss and feeding a dent-type maize variety.



Based on feeding a tonne of maize silage/day:

- 2% reduction in faecal starch = +0.7 litres/cow/day
- Typical forage intake = 30kg maize silage/cow/day
- So, 1 tonne maize silage feeds 33 cows/day
- For 33 cows = +23 litres milk tonne maize silage
- At 35p/litre milk = £8.05
- Assuming 15 tonnes maize/acre = £120.75/acre
- (6 tonnes maize/hectare) = £48.30/hectare)

GAMA Update 4

This shows the financial benefit of using dent-type maize silage compared to flint-type could be £120/acre (£48/Ha) after two months in the clamp. The benefit reduces over time but is still £60/acre (£24/Ha) after six months, based on a 1% difference in faecal starch loss.

Harvesting dent-type hybrids last means they're fed out of the clamp first, giving the most digestible silage to

livestock early on and allowing any flint-type maize silage time to ferment. This also reduces demand for bought-in ration components as the additional nutritional value of the dent-type maize silage is captured. Lower feed costs and increased milk production and/or quality make these new dent-type hybrids an exciting addition to the maize varieties available, a full list of which are listed opposite.

Hybrid	PACTS® Maturity Description	Soil Type Preference			FAO Rating (Silage)	Early Vigour	Resistance to Lodging	Stover dry-down at Maturity	PACTS® Eyespot Resistance Scores*
		Light	Medium	Heavy					
P7326	Extra Early	←	—	→	180	Very Good	8.2	Fast	6.2
P7364**	Very Early	←	—	→	180	Very Good	8.2	Fast	-
P7378	Very Early	←	—	→	180	Very Good	7.4	Fast	4.4
P7034	Very Early	←	—	→	190	Good	8.2	Moderate	5.4
P7892	Early	←	—	→	200	Very Good	8.3	Very Fast	6.3
P7524	Early	←	—	→	200	Very Good	8.3	Moderate	7.6
P7948	Early	←	→	→	230	Good	8.3	Moderate	7.8
P7460	Intermediate	←	→	→	230	Average	8.3	Slow	-
P8201	Intermediate	←	→	→	230	Very Good	8.1	Moderate	6.5
P8200	Intermediate	←	—	→	230	Good	7.8	Moderate	8.6
P8329	Very Late	←	—	→	250	Very Good	8.2	Moderate	-
P8171	Very Late	←	—	→	250	Good	7.8	Slow	-

*Scores based on a 1 - 9 scale where 9 = high resistance; data sourced from registration trials and PACTS® trials depending upon hybrid

** Available in Ireland in 2022



Test the Best scheme.

If you have a farmer client who may be interested in trying a Pioneer hybrid for the first time, we run a 'Test the Best' scheme. To find out more or to apply, please click here or contact: testthebest@corteva.com.



Events.

We will be attending Dairy Tech on 7 April at Stoneleigh. Visit us on **stand i27** to meet our team of Forage Specialists and to find out the latest forage news.



BASiS points opportunity.

With the uncertainty over public events and shows taking place, some agronomists may be finding it harder to obtain BASIS CPD points this year. There are a number of opportunities to gain BASIS points from Corteva's forage portfolio – points are available for subscribing to the Grassland and Maize Agronomy newsletter, **downloading** and using the Farm More Forage App, completing online learning modules, attending virtual technical briefings with our team, and Pioneer demo days and briefings.

Here are the links to the Farm More Forage Apps:

Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.farming.corteva.forage.advisors>

Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/farmmoreforage/id1561164445>

Forefront® T

HERBICIDE

Stewardship training reminder.

If you are a BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection qualified advisor and wish to take our Forefront T Stewardship Course for Advisors, please contact our ukhotline@corteva.com and we will register you for the course and send your joining instructions.

This course can be taken each year and BASIS CPD points claimed in each points year.

Ask a question.

- Q.** What species of buttercups will Envy control?
- A.** Envy will control creeping, meadow and bulbous buttercups.
- Q.** Does the use of Envy lead to herbicide residue carry over into manures?
- A.** Envy has no manure restrictions so, given this and its weed spectrum, it makes an ideal solution for spraying weeds in horse paddocks.

BASIS Points.

2 BASIS points (1 crop protection and 1 personal development) will be awarded to those subscribing to Grassland Agronomy and Maize Agronomy Update. Please include course name 'Grassland Agronomy Update' and ref number: CP/11459/2122/g, on the training record and send to cpd@basis-reg.co.uk These details are valid until 31 May 2022.



We're here to help you Corteva's Technical Services Team

For technical advice and support, contact the technical hotline or your local Corteva Area Manager.



Georgina Clayton



Nicola Perry

Technical hotline: **0800 689 8899** Email: ukhotline@corteva.com
or visit: www.corteva.co.uk/grassland or download the Farm More Forage app available on apple or android. For regular updates on agronomic issues, find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) or search for @CortevaUK on social media. Orders: custserv@corteva.com
General enquiries: 01462 457272 Email: CortevaUK@corteva.com You can also visit [our website](#) for additional contact numbers.



USE PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS SAFELY. Always read the label and product information before use. For further information including warning phrases and symbols refer to label.

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